

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIRMAN DAVE LEWIS**, on January 15, 2001
at 3:00 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Steve Vick, Chairman (R)
Rep. Dave Lewis, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Matt McCann, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. John Brueggeman (R)
Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas (D)
Rep. Edith Clark (R)
Rep. Bob Davies (R)
Rep. Stanley Fisher (R)
Rep. Dick Haines (R)
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)
Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)
Rep. Jeff Pattison (R)
Rep. Art Peterson (R)
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)
Rep. John Witt (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Tim Callahan (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Paula Broadhurst, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 42, HB 186, 1/15/2001
Executive Action: None.

HEARING ON HB 42

Sponsor: Rep. Gay Ann Masolo, HD 40, Townsend.

Proponents: Rep. Alan Olson, HD 8; Margaret Bowles, Teacher for Townsend Elementary School; Erik Burke, MEA-MFT, Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers; Wayne Buchanan, Montana Board of Public Education; Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association; Bill Cooper, Office of Public Instruction; Jeff Hindoiien, Governors Office.

Opponents: None.

Informational Witnesses: none.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Gay Ann Masolo, HD 40, Townsend, said this bill is a request for stipends for National Board Certified Teachers. It would be \$3,000 a year on a 10-year plan to encourage those teachers to stay in Montana and to stay in the classroom.

Proponents' Testimony:

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 2.8}

Rep. Olson said they have two National Board Certified Teachers in Roundup. He supports HB 42.

Margaret Bowles said she is a Nationally Board Certified Teacher, and is in favor of the \$3,000 annual stipend for teachers in Montana to successfully complete the process of becoming National Board Certified. This process puts together standards that would assess and certify teachers that can meet the high standards that have been put in place for national certification.

A pamphlet about The National Board Certification Process was distributed. **EXHIBIT**(aph11a01).

Erik Burke said National Board Certification is the highest level of certification a teacher can earn in the nation. To become National Board Certified is based on established standards of performance in the classroom and also based on teachers demonstrating that they meet those standards on a day to day basis. He said they have research evidence that shows the National Board Certified Teachers impacted student performance at a greater level than other teachers in the classroom. This is an

incentive for teachers to reach a higher plateau for excellence.
EXHIBIT(aph11a02) .

Wayne Buchanan said the Montana Board of Public Education supports HB 42.

Bob Vogel said they support HB 42. The retention of quality teachers is already a problem for many school districts across the state. This will promote professional development and retain good quality for those individuals.

Bill Cooper said they support HB 42. He handed in testimony and quoted a Montana teacher who has attained National Board Certification. **EXHIBIT(aph11a03)** .

Jeff Hindoien said the Governor's Office supports this concept.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 21.6}

Rep. Lindeen asked **Mr. Hindoien** what level the current Government's budget fund this bill. **Mr. Hindoien** said the current budget funds a \$3,000 stipend, one time only, for teachers who come in over the next two years after they secure certification.

Rep. Peterson asked **Mr. Burke** about the range of payments in other states in schools. **Mr. Burke** said the \$3,000 is an average of what is going on in other states. There is a high level in North Carolina, they have in their state budget a 12% increase on top of the teachers annual contract. It is a 12% increase above what they would earn annually. The State of California has a \$10,000 stipend for their teachers. The State of Ohio is around \$5,000, and also in Iowa and Oklahoma. Idaho has \$2,000 per year and Washington has \$3,500 per year. The State of Nevada offers 5% of their salary, which is around \$4,000 to \$6,000 per year.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.3}

Rep. Davies told **Mr. Burke** he thought the MEA opposed merit pay and asked him to explain his thoughts about that. **Mr. Burke** said they believe merit pay is more objective than what they are proposing with National Board Certification Stipends.

Rep. Tropila asked **Ms. Bowles** what out-of-pocket expenses she had when getting certified by the National Board. **Ms. Bowles**

said when she applied it cost \$2,000 for the application to become a candidate. It is now \$2,300 to go through the candidacy process.

Rep. Tropila asked **Rep. Masolo** if this bill passed, if she perceived more teachers trying to get Nationally Board Certified with more money involved. **Rep. Masolo** said teachers go beyond the call of duty for education. Teachers are role models and she could see more teachers getting certified.

Rep. Jayne asked **Ms. Bowles** if she knew of teachers that were not board certified and could not afford the assessment process. **Ms. Bowles** said, right now in Montana, there is a \$1,000 scholarship available from the National Boards. They divide it among the first 10 candidates.

Rep. Peterson asked **Ms. Bowles** if this program is comparable to getting a Master's Degree. **Ms. Bowles** said she had her Master's Degree before she went into National Certification. There is no comparison between the two. A Master's Degree is gaining knowledge and National Certification is about the practice of teaching and improving the teacher's skills.

Rep. Buzzas asked **Mr. Burke** if he looked into what other states are doing in terms of putting this sort of certification into steps. **Mr. Burke** said other states have a statewide salary schedule. Other states are encouraging incentives in trying to keep teachers there to the best of their abilities.

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Masolo said incentive matters, this bill encourages pro-active teachers who are setting a standard for achievement. A teacher who successfully earns a certifying score on these assessments and has demonstrated an exceptional ability to teach and teach well, deserves a monetary award.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 18.6}

HEARING ON HB 186

Sponsor: Rep. Linda L. Holden, HD 86.

Proponents: Senator Ric Holden, SD 1; Rep. Ron Devlin, HD 3; Bob Gilbert, Montana Stockgrowers Association; John Baucaus, Rancher; Steve Pilcher, Montana Stockgrowers Association; Lorna Karn, Montana Farm Bureau; Donna Sevalstad, Commissioner of Beaverhead

County in Dillon, Montana; Dan Downs, Montana Farmers Union; Rep. Dave Kasten, HD 99.

Opponents: none.

Informational Witnesses: Marc Bridges, Montana Department of Livestock; Larry Handegard, USDA Wildlife Services.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Holden handed out information on Fiscal Year 1997 Cooperative Funding Sources for the Idaho and Surrounding States' WS programs, **EXHIBIT(aph11a04)**. Also handed out information on Montana Sheep and Lamb Losses in 1999. **EXHIBIT(aph11a05)**. She said this bill not only helps livestock producers, but also helps sportsmen.

Proponents' Testimony:

Senator Ric Holden said this bill is set up to help control predators in Montana. This appropriation will serve to support in the field, Wildlife Services and Wildlife Officers to control the numbers of predators that prey on wildlife, that could be endangered species and also prey on livestock. He handed out a Progress Report on 1997 Fawn Mortality Study, **EXHIBIT(aph11a06)**. He said when predators are controlled in Montana, it would help endangered species in the state as well. He also handed out information on predators that caused an estimated \$1.8 million loss for Montana sheep producers in 1997. **EXHIBIT(aph11a07)**. This bill would establish money for the Wildlife Services Program in Montana to assist with predator control.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.3}

Rep. Ron Devlin said there is an increased demand on Wildlife Services. They are involved in predator control for protection of livestock and endangered species. Wildlife Services is the only recognizable agency to do predator control work on federal land. Predator control benefits all Montana people, not only the livestock producer but also the wildlife. He supports HB 186.

Bob Gilbert said the Montana Stockgrowers Association supports HB 186. Predator control is a big problem to the sheep industry and also for the cattle industry.

John Baucus said he supports HB 186, this would maintain expertise within the Wildlife Services.

Steve Pilcher said the Livestock Industry faces a variety of challenges. There is a big impact of predator losses on the rancher's profit and loss statement. He said Montana Stockgrowers Association supports HB 186.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 10.6}

Lorna Karn said the Montana Farm Bureau supports HB 186.

Donna Sevalstad said they have the most Federal land of any county in the State of Montana. They have the most acres of state land and are the biggest county in Montana. She said they have the lowest return per acre on the Federal lands. She supports HB 186.

Dan Downs said Montana Farmers Union supports HB 186.

Rep. Dave Kasten said he supports HB 186.

A letter was handed in from the Montana Shooting Sports Association and Western Montana Fish and Game Association supporting HB 186. **EXHIBIT(aph11a08)**.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Informational Witnesses' Testimony:

Marc Bridges said they have a cooperative agreement with USDA Wildlife Services in their predator program. He is here to answer questions about that program.

Larry Handegard said they have seen an increase in the number of livestock deprivations and have seen sheep producers suffer heavy losses.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 18.1}

Rep. Pattison asked **Senator Holden** how much the Fish and Game pays for predator control in this program. **Senator Holden** estimated around \$110,000.

Rep. Buzzas asked **Mr. Bridges** if Montana Department of Livestock gets the USDA funds for predator control. **Mr. Bridges** said no.

Rep. Buzzas asked **Mr. Bridges** if the Department of Wildlife Services is the one that administers predator control in Montana

using all these various sources of funding. **Mr. Bridges** said that was correct.

Rep. Witt asked **Senator Holden**, referring to the chart from the Agriculture Statistic Service, why there were mountain lions and bears, but no wolves. **Senator Holden** said as all of the sheep producers go out of business, this shifts the coyotes deprivation on cattle herds and more on wildlife populations. Sheep producers take an active role in controlling the coyote numbers in their location.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.3}

Bob Gilbert said the numbers they use are from the AG Statistical Reporting Service. When they do these surveys, the figures are conservative and the producer is not accusing all the losses done by predators.

Rep. Kaufmann asked **Mr. Bridges** to speak on information about the per capita tax.

Rep. Jayne asked **Mr. Handegard** what the \$50,000 would be used for. **Mr. Handegard** said he would anticipate that money going into additional aerial time such as in helicopters and also hiring additional personnel.

Rep. Buzzas asked **Mr. Handegard** if there was a formula used for what kinds of animals they eliminate or what areas of the state. **Mr. Handegard** said they have approximately 19 field personnel located throughout the state. Each individual has from 1 to 8 counties in their district. They respond to requests from landowners and livestock producers when they have problems with predators or wildlife, excluding elk or deer.

Rep. Davies asked **Senator Holden** about aerial gunning with a helicopter and whether operating costs were expensive. **Senator Holden** said this is the best approach to find the most funding.

Rep. Vick asked **Mr. Handegard** how many coyotes can be killed for \$50,000. **Mr. Handegard** said in some parts of the state, they can kill as many as 10 coyotes an hour or more. It depends on the level of predator control that is going on in that area.

Rep. Buzzas asked **Mr. Handegard** if this is a yearly appropriation. **Mr. Handegard** said that is correct.

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Holden said this is an important issue to Montana, it is a large state with federal land and private land to cover. It is an important investment to contribute to the Wildlife Service Program for this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:45 P.M.

REP. STEVE VICK, Chairman

PAULA BROADHURST, Secretary
Transcribed by Donna Huffman

SV/PB/DH

EXHIBIT (aph11aad)